

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION
UNTIL RELEASED BY
THE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**STATEMENT OF
GENERAL CARL E. MUNDY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, RETIRED
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY,
TRADE, AND TECHNOLOGY
CONCERNING
H.R. 8277, THE MARINE CORPS 230TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT
ON
MARCH 10, 2004**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Congresswoman Maloney. It is my privilege to come before you and the Members of your Committee, to seek your support in helping commemorate the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps through the minting of a Commemorative Coin. As you know, this bill has 310 co-sponsors and at this time, I would like to thank all those co-sponsors for their support. The Marine Corps especially values the extraordinary efforts of Congressman Jack Murtha, who first introduced this legislation. As a combat Marine during the Vietnam conflict, Congressman Murtha's service exemplifies the kind of selfless sacrifice that is the legacy of our "Corps," and we are greatly appreciative of his support of this legislation. I would also like to express the Marine Corps' sincere gratitude to our former Marines who serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Thank you to Representatives Houghton, Evans, Gilchrest, Snyder, and Kline, for their tremendous efforts in obtaining so many co-sponsors.

I am honored to appear before you at the request of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Mike Hagee, who asks me to convey his respects and his regrets that he is unable to be here with you today. General Hagee has asked me, as a former Commandant, to stand in for him and to convey to you his whole-hearted support for H.R. 3277. I am privileged to do so.

I appear today, also, as a representative of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and chronicling of Marine Corps history through scholarly research, education and outreach to the American public about the contributions of your Marine Corps to this Nation's history and freedom. I am privileged to have

with me Lieutenant General George R. Christmas, President of the Foundation. General Christmas, is a recipient of the Navy Cross – the Nation’s second highest decoration for valor, which he received for his heroic part in the battle for Hue City, Vietnam, in 1968.

On November 10, 2005, the United States Marine Corps will mark its 230th anniversary. The creation of this Corps of Marines in 1775, actually predates the establishment of our Republic. For well over two centuries, the story of the Marine Corps has been one of contribution, sacrifice and service “in every clime and place” on our Nation’s behalf. It is a story of an indomitable spirit, built around the immutable core values of honor, courage and commitment. It is a story of personal sacrifice in protecting the United States of America from our enemies. It is a story of gallantry, innovation and unconquerable fighting spirit during times of war, and of quiet service at home and abroad during times of peace. It is a story worth telling, and a legacy worth preserving. It is a story perhaps best summarized in the Marine motto: Semper Fidelis. Always Faithful.

Along with the millions of men and women – past and present – who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor that marks us as Marines, I am enormously pleased and excited that this Committee is considering a way that the United States can pay tribute to the legacy of its Corps of Marines, and to those who have served proudly in its ranks, by minting and issuing a commemorative silver dollar coin to mark the occasion of our 230th Anniversary.

As an adjunct benefit to the honor itself, in 2001, the Congress authorized the construction of a Marine Corps Heritage Center at Quantico, Virginia, by section 1 of Public

Law 106-398 (114 Stat. 1654). This project, now under development, is a public-private partnership of the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, the nonprofit organization that I represent here today. The Marine Corps Heritage Center will be a multipurpose facility dedicated to historical displays for public viewing, curatorship, and storage of artifacts, scholarly research, educational outreach and associated activities, consistent with the mission of the Marine Corps. At its essence, the Heritage Center will be dedicated to preserving and chronicling the legacy of the United States Marine Corps. It will also tell the story of our great Nation from its humble beginnings until today, through the eyes of the Marines who lived it.

Construction costs for the Marine Corps Heritage Center are being underwritten solely from private-sector sources. A Congressional tribute to the 230th Anniversary of the Corps, by authorizing issuance of this commemorative silver dollar coin, would generate surcharge proceeds at no net cost to the taxpayers. Such surcharge proceeds would provide valuable monies toward the private-sector effort to generate construction funding for the Heritage Center. The Center will begin construction in the coming few months, and is expected to open shortly after the Corps' 230th Anniversary, during 2006.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Committee, speaking for General Hagee and Marines everywhere, I respectfully urge you to favorably report out this legislation to authorize issuance of a commemorative silver dollar coin marking the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps.

This concludes my statement. Thank you for inviting me to testify here today, and I look forward to your questions.